

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

51/IAS
4-9-03
R. Gade

In re the Application of

Inventors: Taiichi MORI, et al.

Art Unit: 2873

Application No.: 09/978,596

Filed: October 18, 2001

For: OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS RESTRICTING ABERRATION AND
OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS USING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Rules 56 and 99, Applicants hereby call the attention of the Patent Office to the art listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. All of these references were cited in a Japanese Office Action dated January 7, 2003 (English translation attached) except for the US patents. The following are US patent correspondents of Japanese applications: US '058/JP '706, US '455/JP '706, US '121/JP '706, US '947/JP '574, US '053/JP '232, and US '349/JP '859.

Applicants present this art so that the Patent Office may, in the first instance, determine any relevancy thereof to the presently claimed invention, see Beckman Instruments, Inc. v. Chemtronics, Inc., 439 F.2d 1369, 1380, 165 USPQ 355, 364 (5th Cir. 1970). Also see Patent Office Rules 104 and 106. Applicants respectfully request that this art be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and made of record herein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue herefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: March 21, 2003

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L7016.01136

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application

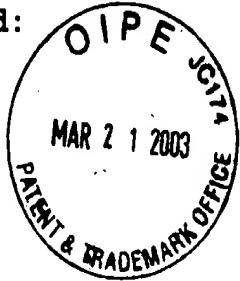
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Washington, DC 20231

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Dear Sir:

In fulfillment of 37 CFR 1.97(c)(1) and 1.97(e)(1), it is hereby certified that each item of information contained in the attached Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication (see the attached copy of a Japanese Office Action dated January 7, 2003) from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter".

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: March 21, 2003

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